

**Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, Jan 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
Meeting trailer at 131 Pleasant St.
Nantucket, MA 02554 &
Via Zoom
*HSAB meeting are video-recorded**

Members present: Andy Lowell, Ginger Andrews, Dave Bossi,
Dave Fronzuto, Scott Anderson, Peter Brace
Members Absent: Stephen Payer
Marine Dept:
Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley
Others: Kona Hosier, Amy DeSibio

CALL TO ORDER

5:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved, 6-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of Nov. 15, 2023

Approved 4-0 with Ms. Andrews and Mr. Fronzuto abstaining.

Draft minutes of Dec. 6, 2023

Approved 6-0.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Brace reminded the HSAB that candidacy papers required for being nominated for election in the upcoming Town Elections are available on Feb. 6 at the Town Clerk's office. Mr. Brace noted the deadline for filing signed candidacy papers is March 22.

MARINE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

General Marine Department report – Sheila Lucey

No report.

NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

General Natural Resources Department report – NRD staff

Ms. Riley reported that the first harbor plan update committee meeting would be on Feb. 7.

Ms. Riley reported that with a grant from the Great Harbor Yacht Club, the shellfish hatchery purchased an algae bioreactor that will almost entirely replaced the hatchery's current algae production system.

Ms. Riley reported that she and others walked the beaches of the inner harbor after a recent blow, and found some scallops stranded, but not enough to mount a stranding rescue effort, may be 10 bushels spread out over two locations at Fulling Mill Road and Abrams Point.

Mr. Riley reported that six to eight boats are working Nantucket and Madaket harbors getting 30 to 50 bushels of bay scallops a day. She added that she did hear that the boat price is down to \$13/pound.

Ms. Riley reported that the Natural Resources Department (NRD) has two open positions; the water quality specialist and coastal resilience coordinator. Because Town assistant biologist Leah Hill took the coastal resilience coordinator job, the NRD is advertising for her former position.

Ms. Riley reported that it's good thing to have turnover in the NRD so new life and ideas are breathed into the department.

Mr. Anderson asked Ms. Riley if she could revise her season estimate for bushels of scallops.

Mr. Lowell asked how soon these positions would be filled and if the NRD would looking for potential candidates from a pool of

past NRD interns. Ms. Riley said she would and that the NRD wants to get these positions filled ASAP.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

No public comments.

OLD BUSINESS

Vineyard Wind – Discussion

Mr. Lowell asked Ms. Riley how far silt plumes might travel from the installation of Vineyard Wind's wind turbines south of Nantucket. Ms. Riley said she would do some research on this get back to the HSAB. Mr. Fronzuto said he believes the silt would probably sink in the deep water around the newly installed wind turbines. Mr. Anderson expressed concerns about silt disturbance caused by the laying of the electric transmission lines between the wind turbines and the mainland whose route would run through the Muskeget Channel. Mr. Fronzuto said the Muskeget Channel had the worst waters in terms of currents he'd ever seen and that the bottom had a lot of gravel and cobble on it. Mr. Lowell expressed concerns about the electromagnetic fields emitted by the power cables on marine wildlife. He added that he wanted more data on this before the HSAB can discuss this further. Ms. Andrews said the finer grains of silt travel the furthest.

Ms. DeSibio said she had aerial photos of silt plumes in the North Sea. She added that whales are washing up dead on the New Jersey shore and that necropsies haven't been done on all of these whales.

Green crabs - Discussion

Mr. Anderson said he found a study that lithium is found in the shells of green crabs and that he's looking into this. Ms. Riley reported that Sustainable Nantucket sponsored a green crab fertilizer event. Mr. Lowell asked if green crabs destroy the salt

marshes. Ms. Andrews said purple marsh crabs do eat salt marsh vegetation.

Harbors Action Plan Committee HSAB recommendations – Discussion

Mr. Fronzuto said the first meeting would be Feb. 7 at 11 a.m.

Mr. Brace said he thought the process would last a year, possibly longer.

Sediment Transport Study and dredge plan – Discussion

Ms. Riley said the study's request for proposals (RFP) had been put out to bid seeking potential consultants to do this study. Mr. Lowell said he'd like to be kept abreast of this situation and when meetings would be held. Mr. Fronzuto said he would be following up on this item.

Ms. Riley reported that this RFP had closed on Jan. 12 but that she'd yet to see any of the proposals.

Pool water discharge - Discussion

Mr. Fronzuto said he knew of at least eight new permit requests for swimming pools on Nantucket.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

Stormwater runoff and harbor impacts, and discussion of possible production of zones of contribution brochure with map for property owners

Mr. Brace said it didn't seem too difficult to him to create a mockup of this brochure to show to the Select Board. Mr. Fronzuto said the Select Board should hold a workshop to show interested property owners where their properties are within the watersheds that drain into Nantucket Harbor. Mr. Bossi said a layer should be added to the Town's geographic information system (GIS) so property owners could see how their property contributed drainage into the harbors. Mr. Fronzuto agreed with Mr. Lowell that a map

of the Town's Harbor Watershed Districts for both residents within it around Nantucket and Madaket harbors put into their tax bills is a good idea but that another map showing their actual property and it feeds into the harbors should also be included.

Ms. Andrews said the HSAB should maybe get a raised contours map of Nantucket to better exhibit elevations of the island.

Mr. Lowell suggested helping property owners find their properties on the Town's GIS' page. Mr. Brace suggested that all of this should form a recommendation to the Select Board. Mr. Fronzuto said the map to go in tax bills should be just for property owners within the downtown by way of example to share the HSAB's vision. Mr. Bossi said the GIS page should be included in this. Mr. Fronzuto said he would find out how to get this into tax bills.

Ms. Andrews said she's concerned about transformers getting flooded out and oil from it being released.

FDA shellfish taking prohibition in mooring fields

Ms. Riley said the shellfish bed closures will resume on May 1 unless she is able to convince the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) otherwise. She added that the FDA did come out during the summer to count boats in the harbor.

NEW BUSINESS

Coastal Resilience Advisory Board – Update

No update.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURN

Unanimously approved, 6-0, at 6:15 p.m.

YOUTUBE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwXocAixu3w&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=1>

Future Meetings:

Feb. 7 and Feb. 21

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary